Dear Paul, 6/2/75

What a surprise! How much I appreciate it!

I had to be away this morning. I met Jim Lesar half way to Washington, executed the affidavit he will file in Washington federal court in the morning, and got home about lunch time. As soon as I read your letter and saw the check I was, of course, excited. The way we have lived, that is a large sum to me.

I was sitting and thinking about how it would be most helpful when there was another unusual development. There was a long piece on me in yesterday's Baltimore Sun magazine. The producer of Baltimore's talk show called and wanted me to go there Thursday. As usual I was candid. I said I'd be glad to do the show by phone but I didn't want to take the unnecessary time to drive to Baltimore, particularly when my car has more than 120,000 miles on it and I can't replace it. So, I offered to do the show by phone at any time. The three and a half hours, I assured her, was no problem. She was satisfied and said she'd call me back with the date he picked. I said anytime, without advance notice, maybe when he has a cancellation.

She called back almost immediately. He will come for me, drive me to and from Baltimore, for the night he wants!

I then could not say no. But did you ever hear of a talk-show moderator spending three hours on the road to have a guest live rather than by phone?

I'd have liked to say no because I don't get up early. If I try to sleep late the light still wakes me and I'll start that day 5 or so and it will be close to 2 a.m. when I get back.

One of the reasons I tell you this story is to illustrate two things: the interest in the subject and the changed climate.

Today there is no more commercial subject if the work is solid. The market knows enough to be discriminating, for the most part. However, anything will sell, given the chance. ...

I started writing this some hours ago. There have been constant phone interruptions and I've really done nothing else. I haven't decided and haven't really had time to think about how to use you fine gift. My instinct is to use it in a way that will improve my effeciency. As soon as I thought of this I thought of the time I spend just mowing with a hand-mower made of three junked ones. (I have two old riding ones both overhauled over the winter, both returned not operating and incredibly both by men who have taken ill, one sick enough for surgery, so they are unrepaired.) Then I thought of the balance duem the bank on the loan to pay the printer for printing WWIV. We have that down to $1,000. Then of the coming need to reprint the first of the original books to go out of print. It will be the third, and as things are now woing, soo. (From the first of the year, save for dire emergencies, we have put all that comes in from the old books in an escrow account to enable this. My hunch is that we have at least half the cost of a 5,000 print. It was easier then because my wife works until mid-April.) I haven't had time to think it through but I had to take the time to tell you how much I do appreciate it.

Hollywood, I suppose, is Ripoffsville. But at some point I'm going to have to try to do something about these crooks. Perhaps with Freed, who I've written in response to a dishonest letter from he. He'd heard from me before your meeting. But I know nobody out there and have no way of paying a lawyer. One thing that would help would be having the names and address of those companies that insure movies. Don once told me there are four and they live in terror. This was when I told him that another outfit had hired someone to research my work for them. He said that when the time came to write the insurance companies, he'd give me their names, and that would end it. Seems like good advaice if I can take it.

Again many thanks, sincerely,